

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 04684 091215Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05
OES-07 DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 H-01 DHA-02
TRSE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /115 W
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P R 091150Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2104
INFO USERDA HQ WASHDC
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4684

EO 11652 NA
TAGS TECH ENRG BR
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR FUEL FOR ANGRA I

REF BRASILIA 4582

1. SUMMARY: ANGRA I TECHNICAL SCHEDULE CALLS FOR FUEL ELEMENT SHIPMENT IN NOVEMBER 1977. FURNAS REQUESTS INFORMATION ON USG ACTIONS RELATING TO THIS SCHEDULE. END SUMMARY.

2. ELETROBRAS/FURNAS (THROUGH DR. DAVID SIMON, CHIEF NUCLEAR ENGINEER) HAS ADVISED EMBASSY (THROUGH SCICOUN) OF PRESENT TECHNICAL SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS FOR ANGRA I FUEL AND PRESENTED QUESTIONS ON COUNTERPART USG ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THIS SCHEDULE. ACCORDING TO SIMON, WESTINGHOUSE NEEDS TO RECEIVE ENRICHED URANIUM FOR ERDA BY SEPTEMBER TO FABRICATE FUEL ELEMENTS DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. SHIPMENT OF ELEMENTS (NOW PLANNED BY SHIP) WOULD BEGIN NOVEMBER 1, IF FUEL ELEMENT STORAGE FACILITY IS READY. IF NOT, SHORT DELAY MIGHT OCCUR IN SHIPMENT. REACTOR CRITICALITY IS SCHEDULED FOR EARLY MAY, 1978, AND FULL POWER OPERATION BEFORE END OF YEAR.

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3. FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS ADDRESSED TO USG:
A. ARE ANY FURTHER ACTIONS BY WESTINGHOUSE, FURNAS, OR GOB REQUIRED BEFORE CONSIDERATION OF EXPORT LICENSE BY NRC?
B. WHAT IS ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF NRC PROCEEDINGS?
C. IF RENEGOTIATION OF 1972 AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY IS ESSENTIAL STEP IN PROCEEDINGS, WHAT IS PROPOSED SCHEDULE

FOR SUCH NEGOTIATIONS?

4. COMMENT. FURNAS SAID IT WAS PRESENTING THOSE QUESTIONS FROM POSITION OF ELECTRICAL UTILITY CUSTOMER FOR NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND FUEL WHO WISHES TO PUT POLITICAL BUT NOT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES ASIDE, LEAVING THE FORMER FOR CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ELEMENTS. FURNAS NEEDS TO ESTABLISH SCHEDULE FOR CONTRIBUTION OF ANGRA I TO ENERGY GRID AND DOES NOT WANT TO PAY WESTINGHOUSE FOR SERVICES (ENRICHMENT OR FABRICATION) OF FUEL WHICH IT IS NOT GOING TO RECEIVE. IF USG APPROVAL/RENEGOTIATION SCHEDULE IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH TECHNICAL SCHEDULE, FURNAS WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO DELAY THE SCHEDULE OR TO SEEK ENRICHMENT/FABRICATION ALTERNATIVES ELSEWHERE.

5. IT IS EMBASSY'S HOPE THAT PRELIMINARY, BEST-POSSIBLE RESPONSE BY USG CAN BE MADE SOON TO FURNAS, IN VIEW OF ITS CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TO WHOLE NUCLEAR ISSUE. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOB WILL VIEW ANY UNDE DELAY, AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GOB SHOULD BE GIVEN PROMPT RESPONSE, ESPECIALLY IF THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES, SO THAT IT CAN CONSIDER ITS OPTIONS. AS REPORTED BRASILIA'S 4582, ISSUE HAS NOW APPEARED IN PRESS; THUS, IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT US DELAY OR NON-FULFILLMENT OF ENRICHMENT CONTRACT WOULD BECOME QUICKLY KNOWN IN BRAZIL. END COMMENT.

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 09-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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